



Changes in SARC Template and Data Definitions Proposed

The State Board of Education (SBE) annually approves the School Accountability Report Card (SARC) template and associated data definitions in accordance with the requirements of state and federal laws. At its May 2005 meeting, the SBE is scheduled to consider proposed changes in the 2004-05 SARC template and data definitions for SARCs published in the 2005-06 school year.

The proposed template changes include the following:

1. The references to years throughout the 2004-05 SARC template have been modified to reflect the reporting of more recent data. For example, data previously collected and reported from 2003-04 will be replaced by data collected and reported from 2004-05.
2. All sections of the template have been renumbered to reflect the use of the "General Information" title for the first section that includes the long-standing elements related to "Contact Information" (title added), "School Description and Mission Statement," and "Opportunities for Parental Involvement."

3. Brief statements have been provided below the title of several template sections that previously lacked such descriptions. In addition, there have been numerous, minor editorial changes made throughout the template to improve clarity and readability.

The following table is new:

- *School Facility Conditions – Results of Inspection and Evaluation:* This new table has been developed to provide a format for reporting the results of the school site inspection required by the *Williams* case settlement.

The following tables have been substantially revised:

- *Teacher Misassignments:* The narrative and format for this table have been revised to provide for the reporting of current year data, if available, as required by the *Williams* case settlement.
- *Vacant Teacher Positions:* The narrative and format for this table have been revised to provide for the reporting of current year data, if

available, as required by the *Williams* case settlement.

- *Quality and Currency of Standards-Aligned Textbooks and Other Instructional Materials*: The narrative and format for this table have been revised to provide for the reporting of these data in a manner that is similar to the reporting of the availability of sufficient textbook and other instructional materials data as required by the *Williams* case settlement.
- *SAT Reasoning Test*: The title, narrative, and format for this table have been revised to conform to the new name for this assessment and to provide for the reporting of average writing scores that will be available beginning in 2005.

The proposed data definition changes include the following:

1. References to years throughout the 2004-05 SARC data definitions have been modified to reflect the reporting of more recent data. For example, data previously collected and reported from 2003-04 will be replaced by data collected and reported from 2004-05. There have also been numerous, minor editorial changes made throughout the data definitions to improve clarity and readability.
2. The data definitions that support the reporting elements contained in the SARC template have been re-organized so that each data definition is aligned with a particular table in the template. As a result,

numerous data definitions that previously supported a single table have been merged into a single definition. In some instances, a data definition has been added to ensure that each table has its own definition. In addition, the definitions have been reordered to coincide with the order of the tables in the template.

The SBE agenda item that contains all the proposed changes to the SARC template and data definitions will be available at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/>.

SARC Reporting Element for Textbook Availability Clarified

For many years, the SARC has included a reporting element for the "Quality and Currency of Textbooks and Other Instructional Materials." This requirement, which is contained in *Education Code* Section 33126(b)(6)(A), has been a SARC element since California voters approved Proposition 98 in 1988. Data or narrative for this element are to be provided by the local educational agency (LEA).

In implementing the *Williams* case settlement, the Legislature recently added *Education Code* Section 33126(b)(6)(B), which mandates that the SARC include a new section titled "Availability of Sufficient Textbooks and Other Instructional Materials." The Legislature also added *Education Code* Section 60119(c)(1), which defines "sufficient textbooks or instructional materials" as "each pupil, including English learners, has a textbook or instructional materials, or both, to use in class and to take home to complete

required homework assignments.” The definition also states that “two sets of textbooks or instructional materials for each pupil” are not required and that it is not to be considered sufficient to “include photocopied sheets from only a portion of a textbook or instructional materials copied to address a shortage.”

In November 2004 and January 2005, the SBE approved changes in the SARC template and data definitions related to this new requirement that include the following text:

The availability of sufficient standards-aligned textbooks and other instructional materials for each pupil, including English learners, that are consistent with the content and cycles of the curriculum frameworks adopted by the State Board in the core curriculum areas of reading/language arts, mathematics, science, and history-social science; foreign language and health; and science laboratory equipment for grades 9 to 12, inclusive, as appropriate.

A description of the extent to which each pupil, including English learners, has a state-adopted (grades K-8) and standards-aligned (grades K-12) textbook or instructional materials, or both, to use in class and to take home to complete required homework assignments.

Two sets of textbooks or instructional materials for each pupil are not required. Photocopied sheets from only a portion of a textbook or instructional materials copied to

address a shortage are not statutorily deemed to be sufficient.

This description should use the most recent available data collected by the district. The year and month in which the data were collected should also be identified.

The information needed to complete this reporting element should be available in the LEA’s curriculum office.

SARC Question of the Month

The following is the “SARC Question of the Month,” along with its answer:

As of the time that this edition of the *SARCnews* was being prepared, how many bills had been introduced in the California Legislature that propose to amend the primary SARC statute (*Education Code* Section 33126)?

Five. They are Assembly Bills 1306 and 1609, and Senate Bills 485, 687, and 1108. For more information, visit <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>.

If you have questions or comments about the topics covered in this newsletter, or suggestions for topics for a future newsletter, please contact us as indicated below.

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